

**Lola Johnson**  
**Narrator**

**Also Present:**  
**Jim Johnson-husband**  
**Guy Johnson-son**

**Janet Worthington**  
**Interviewer**

**Gary Worthington**  
**Video Photography**

**July 25, 2006**  
**At the Johnson's home**  
**Canyon City, Oregon**

**JW:** Would you begin for us please, by telling us a little bit about how you knew Kam Wah Chung, what experiences you had there with Doc Hay, or with anyone in the Chinese community?

**LJ:** Personally, I had was taken there by my parents, because I had been sick a lot, and the doctors didn't seem to be able to do anything about it, so they decided to take me to Doc Hay. The thing I remember about going in there is the smell of the room. I guess to describe it would be oriental, I don't know how else to describe it. Anyway, we walked in and Doc Hay said, "Skeeter it's you, haven't seen you for a long time" and I'm thinking, how does he know...he can't see? We walked in and he had a...this is how I remember it anyway...as a child; there was a satin pillow and a counter. He said to put my arm on this pillow and he felt my pulse. I remember he had long fingernails. He asked mom some questions and then he said "does she have a red line up her finger?"...on this finger here...and mom looked and she said "well yes, she does" and he said "show me where it is at" and mom put his finger on mine and showed how far up it went. Then he says "Son-bitch, you wait till she dead and bring her to me." So, then he mixed up some things in a brown paper bag and we took them home and mom had to boil them in water and make a brew. As I looked at them when she was putting them in, it looked like sticks and leaves, and I knew there had to be bones and fingernails, and all sorts of things in there, very strange things in this brew. After tasting it I knew it had to be, because it was horrible tasting stuff. I had to take a cup of that with each meal and I can't tell you for how long, seemed like forever for me. It got to the point where my dad would pay me a dollar for each cup if I drank it all. I have never had the problems I had with the illness. I think it had to do with pneumonia...I had bronchiole pneumonia...I had double bronchiole pneumonia when I was a baby. Every winter if I got a cold it went right into pneumonia and I have never had any signs of that kind of a problem since. And...um...that was my personal experience with him.

**JW:** You described some of the inside of the building—

**LJ:** The building—

**JW:** The Kam Wah Chung building, could you tell us some more please about what you recall about the inside of the building?

**LJ:** I really don't remember a lot. But, I remember he seemed to be behind a partition, or counter, or something, and I saw him just through that, otherwise I didn't see a whole lot. Or don't remember it anyway.

**JW:** Did you sit down? Do you recall?

**LJ:** I don't think so, I think I was standing.

**JW:** He had a pillow? Do you remember the color?

**LJ:** White satin pillow.

**JW:** White satin pillow?

**LJ:** Yes

**JW:** And where did he place that?

**LJ:** It was on this little counter and there was a square hole that you put your hand through. That's how I remember it.

**JW:** What did he do then?

**LJ:** He took my pulse.

**JW:** How did he do that?

**LJ:** By laying his hand like this.

**JW:** Laying his hand like doctors still do that today?

**LJ:** Yes.

**JW:** After that he was able to tell?

**LJ:** Well, I'm sure he spoke to mom and asked my symptoms...what was going on...and things like that, and from that he...and this red line on my finger.

**JW:** What about the rest of the room? Do you remember anything?

**LJ:** I don't remember anything about it. It was kind of dark. I just don't remember much of the rest of it.

**JW:** Was it winter time, or what season of the year was it?

**LJ:** I have no idea.

**JW:** Was there heat on?

**LJ:** Probably winter.

**JW:** Do you recall if there was heater or a stove in that room?

**LJ:** I think I was pretty taken by the fact that we were even going there, so I really wasn't aware of the things around me I don't think. I just remember him and the satin pillow. That's what impressed me I guess.

**JW:** Do you recall anything about the outside of the building?

**LJ:** No, as far as I can remember it looks pretty much like it is now. I'm sure there were other things there. They did make some changes, but I'm not sure what they did.

**JW:** How old were you?

**LJ:** I don't know. I was probably first, second grade, somewhere in there.

**JW:** So about six or seven years old?

**LJ:** Yes

**JW:** Did you have any contact with the store at all when—

**LJ:** No

**JW:** No?

**LJ:** No

**JW:** Did anybody else in your family go to Doc Hay for treatment?

**LJ:** Not to my knowledge.

**JW:** Did your mother—

**LJ:** My mother lived in Growville. And there house was just about where Chester's is now. There was a foot bridge that came across the crick to the Kam Wah Chung area. My mom had several brothers and one sister and they went to the school that is there now...the grade school. They would walk the road and come across the big bridge and then down. And...um...the so-called uptown kids would always pick on them and fight with them and stuff. One day this was going on and one of the china men, I can't tell you who it was, came out of the building with a big knife, and he was just...ya know... a chattering with his language, and this knife was up in the air, and the kids scattered, I mean they really scattered, and from that point on they told my mother and her family to come across the foot bridge, and through their property, to school, and the kids would never bother them again, and that's what they did. So, then, in the summer, or something, when they'd go through there, and they had their gardens and stuff, they would load the kids up with fresh vegetables and stuff and send them home with them. He apparently got to know mom pretty well, because he nick-named her Skeeter. Like I said, when we walked in for me, he knew her walk, and called her by Skeeter, and that was the first time I had ever heard that. I have no other knowledge of what else went on, just what my mom had told me.

**JW:** Did she tell you anymore stories about herself, about going to the doctor or going to the store?

**LJ:** No

**JW:** When you went to Kam Wah Chung were there other people in the store or in the building?

**LJ:** There could have been someone in the back, but I didn't see them ...you know...there was other commotion going on, but I didn't see them.

**JW:** You were the only people in there at that particular place at that time?

**LJ:** Yes.

**JW:** Did you ever know Lung On?

**LJ:** No.

**JW:** His Partner?

**LJ:** No.

**JW:** When he was in business—

**LJ:** I'm sure I've seen him, but I didn't have any personal contact with him.

**JW:** Did you hear any stories about him or his businesses, or the things he did.

**LJ:** No, I haven't.

**JW:** Do you know, or hear anything about Doc Hay or Lung On's families in china? Did your mother say anything about that?

**LJ:** No, just about all I have told you is about all that I know.

**JW:** Did you have any other contact with any other people in the Chinese community?

**LJ:** No.

**JW:** When the museum opened in the 70's, did you hear about the condition of the building, or the inside of the building, or did you see that at all?

**LJ:** No, I haven't been in it for...oh gosh...I don't know when the last I was in there. It looked different to me though, when I did go in.

**JW:** In what ways.

**LJ:** Well, for one thing the childhood memory of the little counter with the pillow was not there, and like I say that was my memory of it. Other than that I couldn't tell you, because we weren't there very long and you couldn't just wander around when I was there with him.

**JW:** When you were talking about this counter...the counter was low enough that you could...as a six or seven year old...you could—

**LJ:** Well, I had to stretch.

**JW:** But, it was within your reach?

**LJ:** Yes.

**JW:** As you come in the door, that counter was right—[Looking at Photograph]

**LJ:** Where's the door?

**JW:** Here's the main door, right here.

**LJ:** Okay...Well, like I say...I was pretty young...it seemed like you came right straight in and then there was this little partition...I couldn't even tell you how far across it went...as far as the room.

**JW:** It was just straight ahead?

**LJ:** And, it just might be my memory of it.

**JW:** As you recall?

**LJ:** Yes.

**JW:** That's fine. And you just came straight in—

**LJ:** Straight in, yes.

**JW:** And there was a low counter... Okay...Did you know Gordon Glass?

**LJ:** Yes.

**JW:** What was his role with Kam Wah Chung?

**LJ:** I know he did a lot of history on it...did a lot of research, but that's it.

**JW:** Do you have any photographs of Kam Wah Chung, or any items, or do you know of anybody who has any items?

**LJ:** I have one picture that comes to mind it was a double exposure. I'm not sure if it was Doc Hay or the other one. I meant to find it for you, and I haven't yet, but I will. It shows a little bit of the building.

**JW:** Oh good. Do you know about when it was taken?

**LJ:** I have no idea.

**JW:** You have no idea when that was taken?

**LJ:** No, it was in my mom's stuff so—

**JW:** Might be able to tell from some of the [unclear] photographs. How about items from the store...from Kam Wah Chung...have you seen any of those?

**LJ:** No.

**JW:** Is there anything else you want to tell us about? What about the Chinese community from your mother's [unclear]

**LJ:** She didn't describe it to me or anything, other than what she went through as a child, and after I got the medication, we didn't have anymore problems, so we didn't have to go back. I didn't have to spend any time there...unlike our doctor's today.

**JW:** Did your mother, or did you go to other doctors as well as Doc Hay?

**LJ:** I had been going to doctors previously and they couldn't seem to do anything for me, so mom decided it was time to go to Doc Hay.

**JW:** You gave us a description of what he said to you. How would you characterize his command of the English language? Did he speak English—

**LJ:** Well enough I could understand what he was saying, maybe not always, but I understood that part. I would assume it was kind of broken...you know...a little bit, but you could understand him when he wanted you to. [Both Laughing]

**JW:** Any other comments that you would like to share?

**LJ:** Can't think of anything.

**JW:** What would you say has been the contribution of the Chinese to this area?

**LJ:** Well, they were a major part of our area, without them I don't know if all this mining and everything would have been as large as it was. There was a community of the Chinese in Canyon City too. Most of them lived on the street down below where my folks lived, but that was before my recollection. They were a big part of our community.

**JW:** Thank you very much.

**LJ:** You're welcome.

**JW:** Very helpful.

**LJ:** Thank you

**GW:** End of Interview